



Participants in the International Workshop "Impact of the Environment on Reproductive Health" held in Copenhagen, Denmark, 30 September - 4 October 1991.

Foreword

This publication presents the outcome of an international workshop on the Impact of the Environment on Reproductive Health convened in Copenhagen on September 30–October 4, 1991. The Workshop gathered scientists from 30 countries from all regions of the world. They were concerned about the impact, actual and potential, of the environment on reproductive health. They were also concerned that this impact on individuals, in this case mostly women and children, is overshadowed by the international debate on transboundary and global environmental issues.

The proceedings of the workshop present the state of the art, highlight the concern, point out areas for action, and emphasize the need for further research. The impact of the environment was traced throughout the reproductive process from gametes, through embryonic/fetal life, infancy/childhood, up to reproductive years and post-reproductive life. Although acute environmental disasters tend to attract public attention, emphasis has also been put on silent, chronic exposure.

The World Health Organization Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction was pleased to sponsor this initiative in collaboration with the University Department of Growth

and Reproduction, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, which organized the meeting, the WHO European Regional Office, which hosted the meeting, the Danish Ministry of Environment, the Danish Ministry of Health, the Commission of the European Communities, the Danish Medical Research Council, the International Programme on Chemical Safety, and the U.S. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

We sincerely hope that this publication will help to voice, in scientific terms, the concerns of women and children in the world, will help in making their weak voice heard in the international political debate, and will help in securing a place for these concerns on the international environment agenda for the twenty-first century. We also hope that the publication will stimulate the interest of scientists and provide them with leads for priority areas of research.

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